

MARVEL

024

[dest_] [iny_] [of_X]



DUGGAN
CASSARA
MARTIN



JDC
+ MARTE
GRACIA



[x-men_[0.00]
[x-men_[0.24]

Cable is a virus. They are of Essex,
and I trust them not.

-- MOIRA X

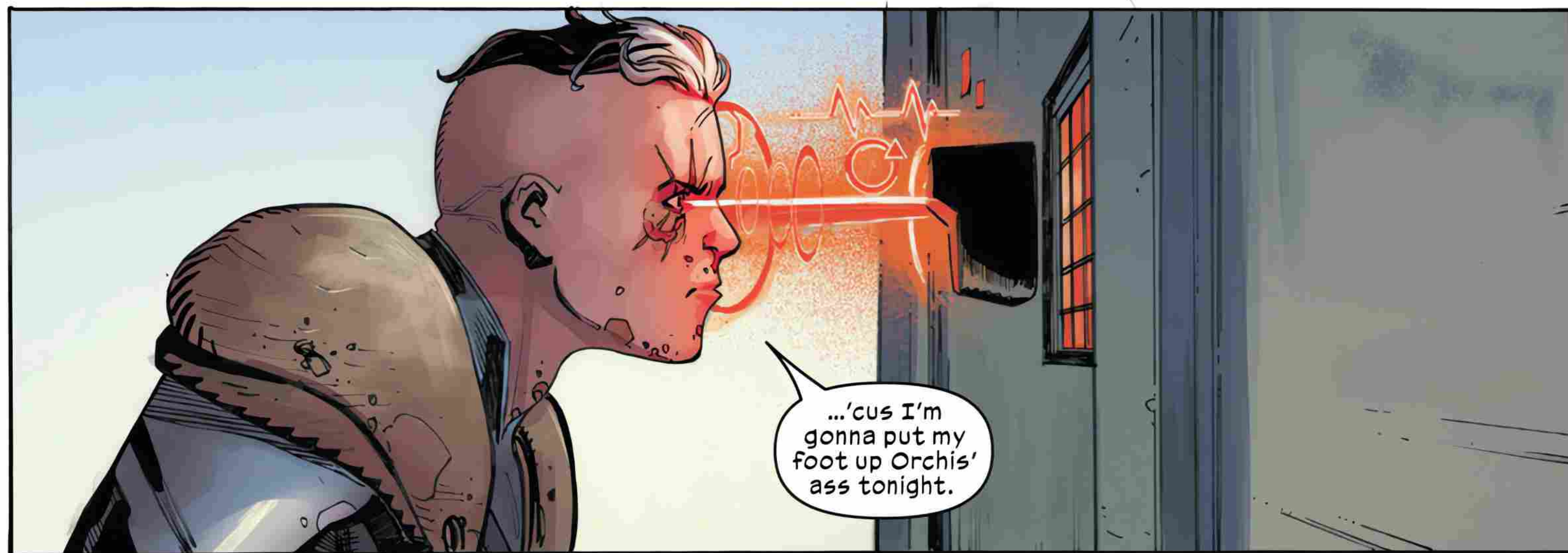
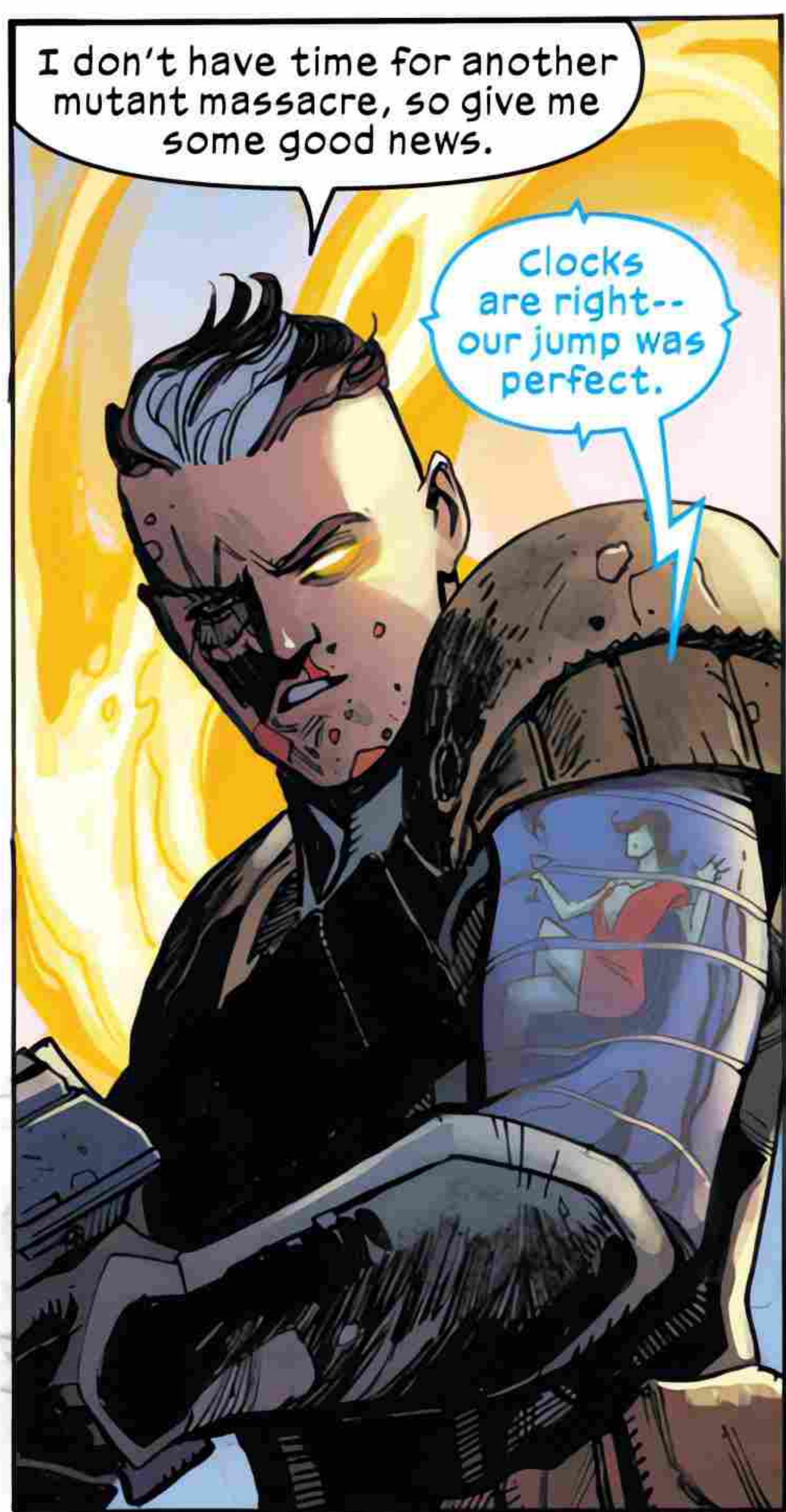


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[x-men_[0.24].....]

[x-men_alpha.]

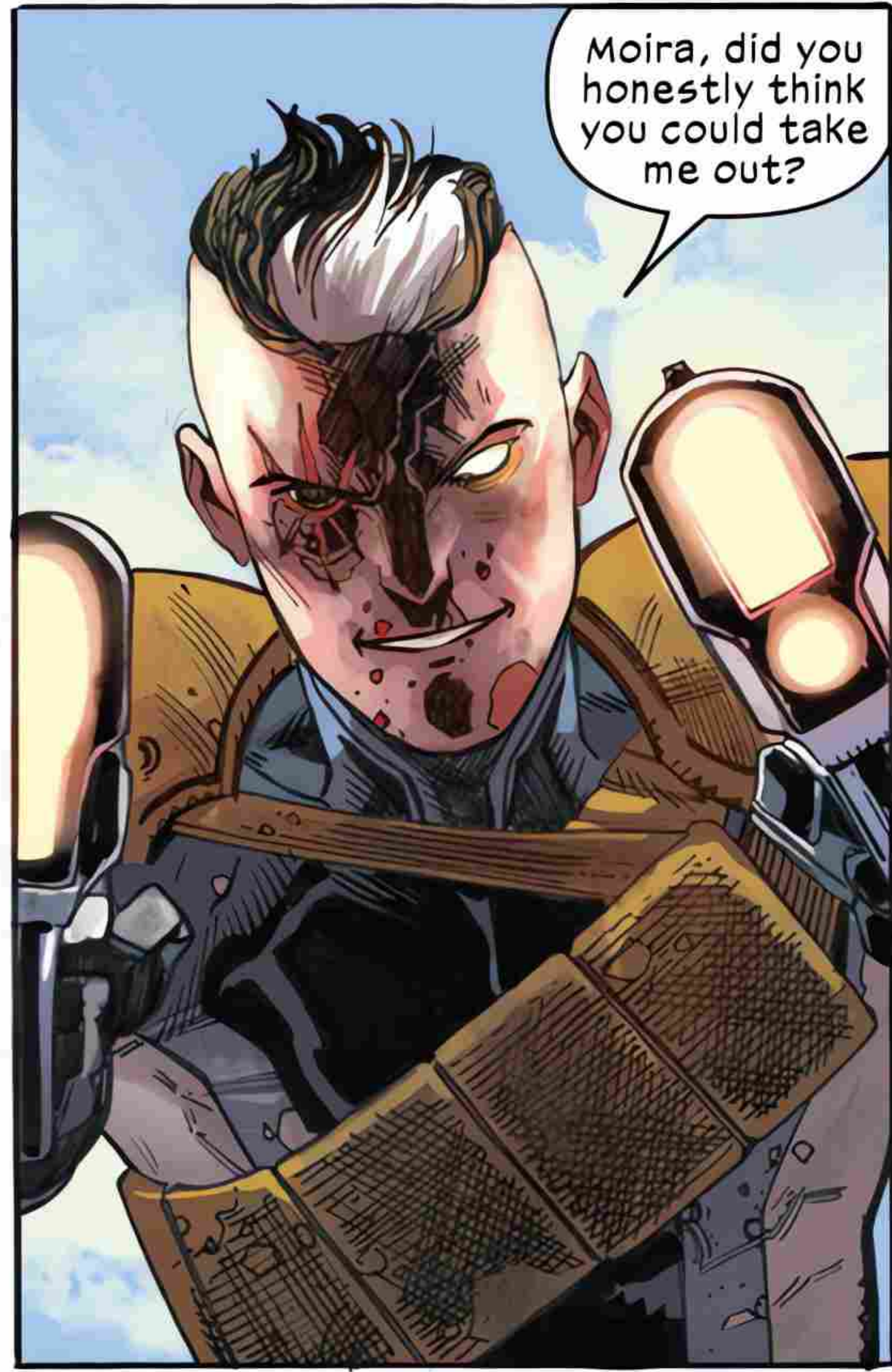




Cable, I'm not reading any life signs and there should be insects and bacteria-- which means I'm being jammed!

Ah. Very clever.

Hiya, Boyo.



Moirra, did you honestly think you could take me out?



Honestly, yes. But just to be safe, I invited Omega Sentinel.

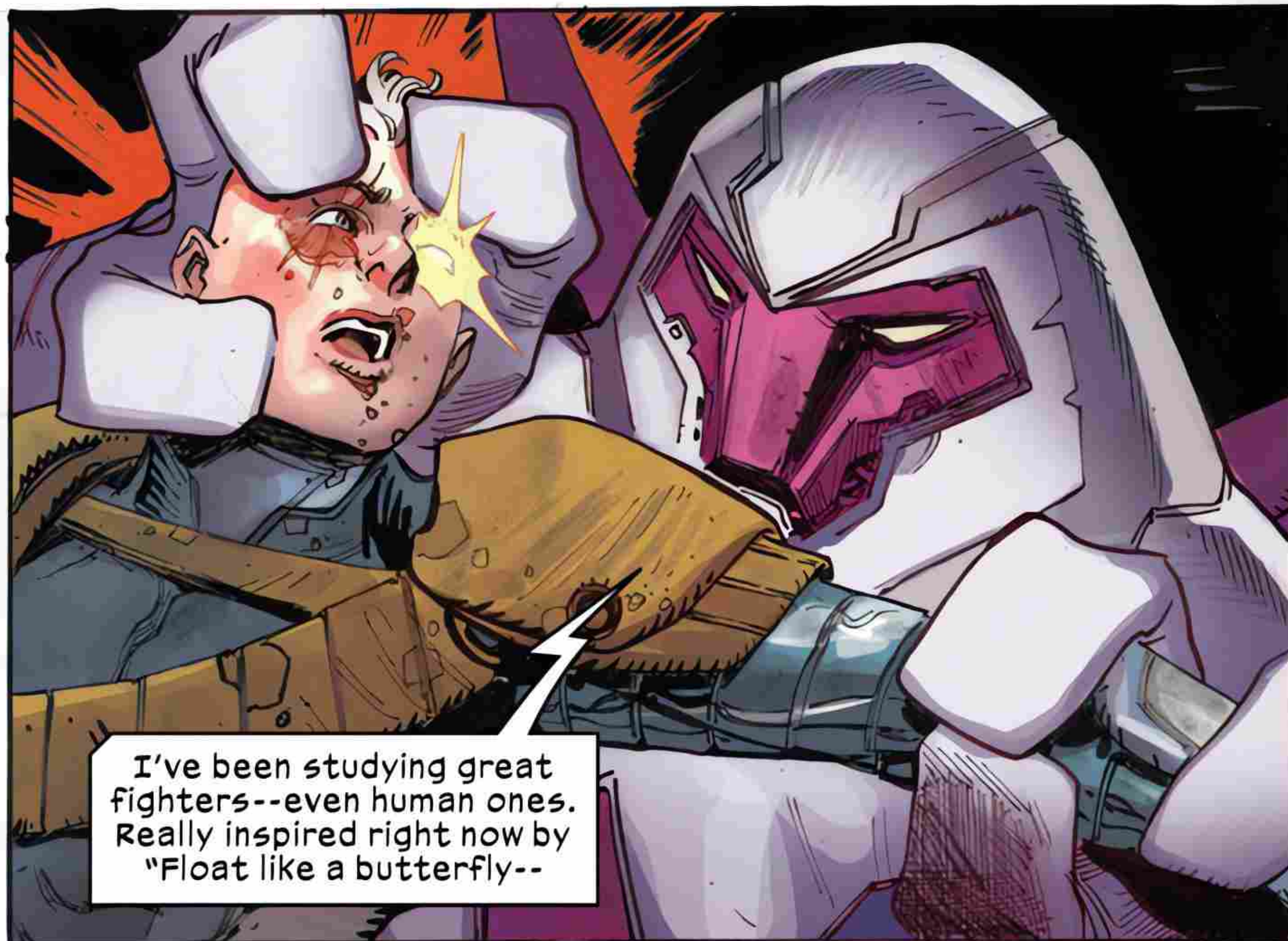
I know what you're planning, and I'm not going to let it happen.

If you traveled back in time to prevent tomorrow, then it's proof we've already won...right, Nimrod?

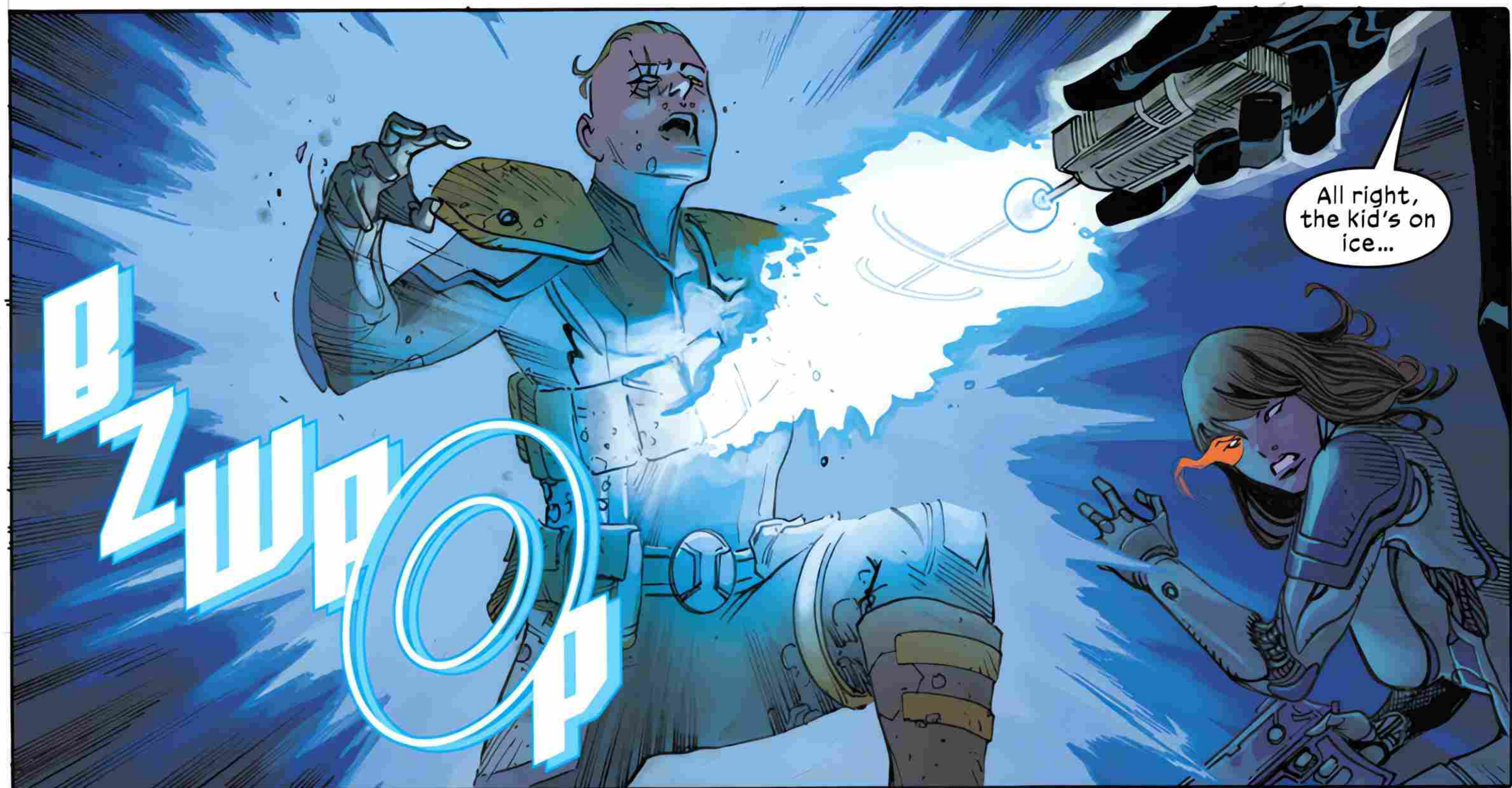
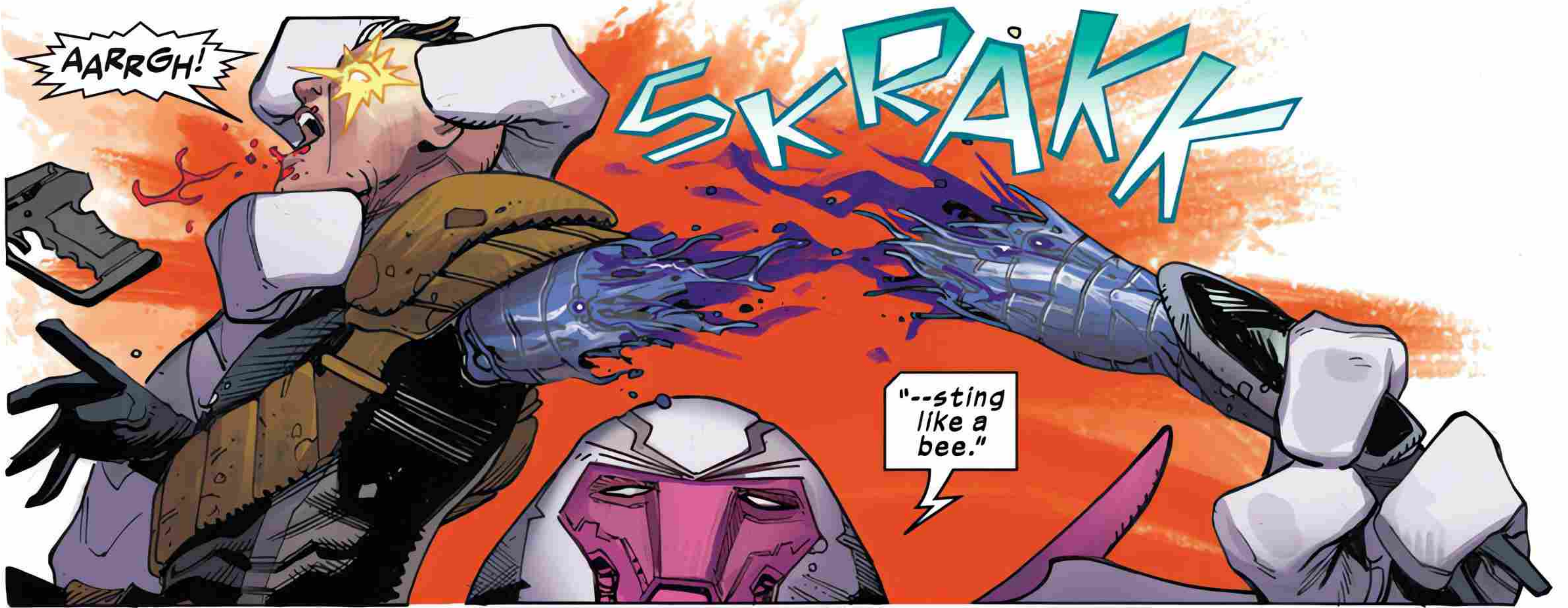


Let's not count our mutants before they hatch from their eggs.

Oh @#%.



I've been studying great fighters--even human ones. Really inspired right now by "Float like a butterfly--





FROM THE DESK OF THE TIME
VARIANCE AUTHORITY

FAO: [Redacted]

Temporal disruptions are increasing before and after the third Hellfire Gala. These intrusions are typical of tectonic shifts in mutant status. It's been theorized that they hone part of their defense mechanism in fluid time. No concrete evidence of this has been proven, but, of course -- if it were true, [Redacted]: It would be difficult to prove.

The TVA recommends watching Cable Summers in every timeline. If you spot Nathan "Cable" Summers -- do not approach but instead alert your local TVA. It's possible this subject has nearly total situational awareness over fatal incidents to his body across his entire timeline.

This own agency was nearly liquidated for underestimating him.

PREPARED BY AGENT:
[Redacted]

At the same moment that Moira was taking Kid Cable off the board, the precognitive mutant known as Destiny was meeting her daughter Rogue in the X-Men's Treehouse.

Trust me, Rogue. Mutantdom dies with Manifold.

Your story and his have bisected perfectly. They always have and always will.

Then we *must* tell the X-Men.

Will they understand what must be done for the greater good?

Ah'm not even sure Ah do, Irene.

You're the fortune teller, so just *te//* it-- what happens if Ah insist we take this to the team?

We dare not.

There is a turncoat on the X-Men. A great betrayal that will turn the tide.

It must happen so that we may make this weakness a strength.

The X-Men will buckle under the weight of the war to come.



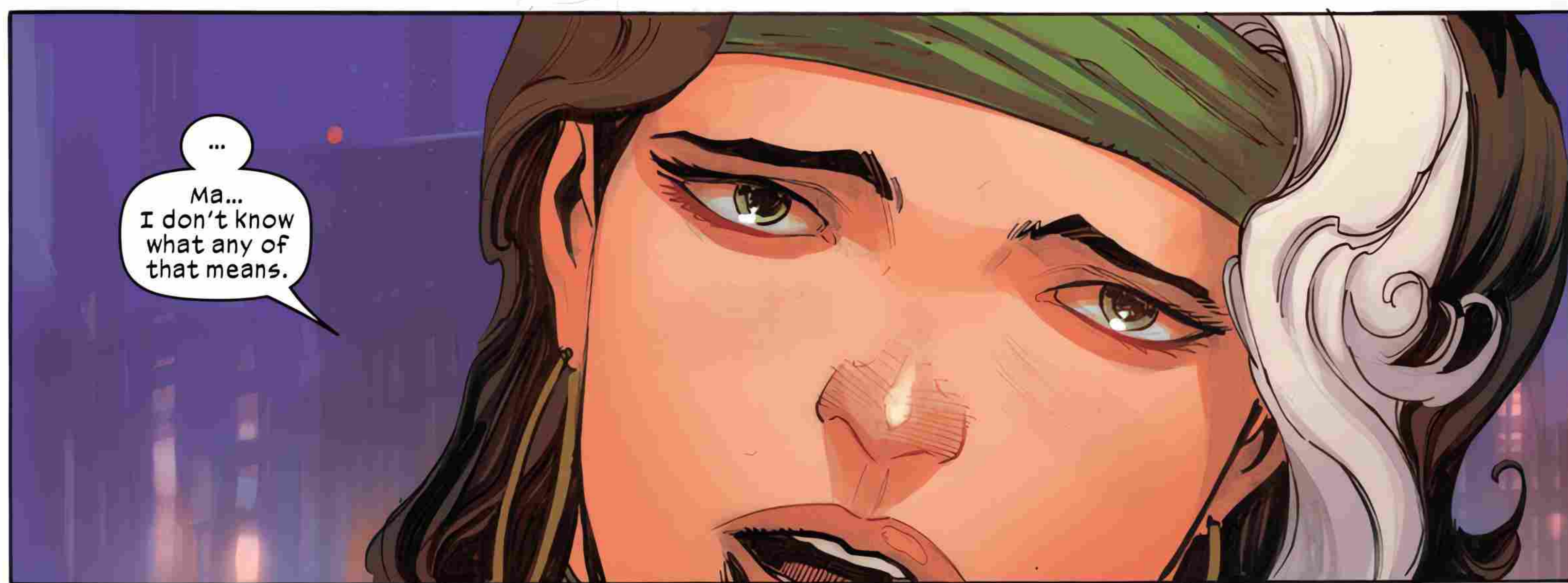
Do you
really know what
yer askin'?

To keep
quiet and risk
everything?

Speak
plainly to me.
What do you
really see?



I see kings clashing in white, black after
the death of the Red Queen. I see a Jovian
bolt from the heavens. I see the stars
ripped in half. I hear the poisoning lies
of the false captain, his rank earned.
The fool who speaks the truth
will pay the price.



...
Ma...
I don't know
what any of
that means.



It is
enough that it
is true.

IC
G
C

X-MEN

THE WALLS ARE CLOSING IN

Tensions between mutant and humankind are reaching an all-time high as Orchis continues to spread anti-mutant propaganda -- painting themselves as a well-meaning altruistic alternative to Krakoa medicine and technology to the public, all while secretly funding the efforts of Doctor Stasis, Moira and many more unethical figures with their own bone to pick with the mutant community.

Perhaps as a united front, Krakoa could weather the storm that is brewing...but human/mutant tensions aren't the only ones that are fast reaching their boiling point. Divided by their separate approaches to the recent Brood infestation, the rift between Jean Grey and Cyclops has grown even wider as the weight of leading the X-Men bears down on them.



[KID CABLE]



[OMEGA SENTINEL]



[DOCTOR STASIS]



[ROGUE]



[CYCLOPS]



[SYNCH]



[TALON]



[ICEMAN]



[MOIRA X]



[NIMROD]



[DESTINY]



[JEAN GREY]



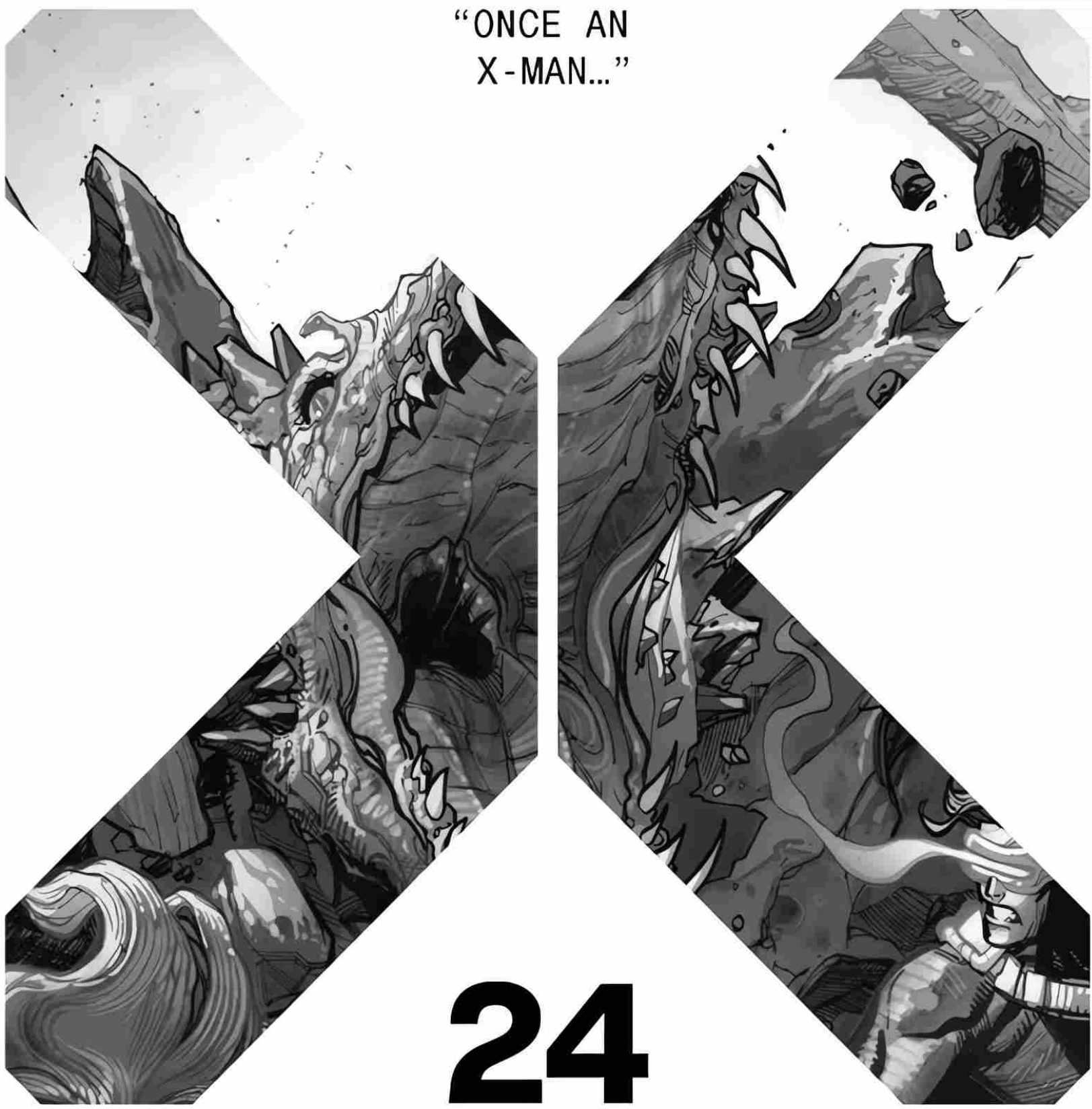
[FIRESTAR]



[MAGIK]



[FORGE]



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Frank Martin/Color Artist
VC's Clayton Cowles/Letterer
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X-Men created by
Stan Lee & Jack Kirby

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Gameworld is a spacefaring megacity dedicated to the whims of the richest and most depraved aliens in the galaxy. When the wealthiest aliens come to your door to gamble the fortunes of entire planets...

...you can also attract the attention of some undesirables like...



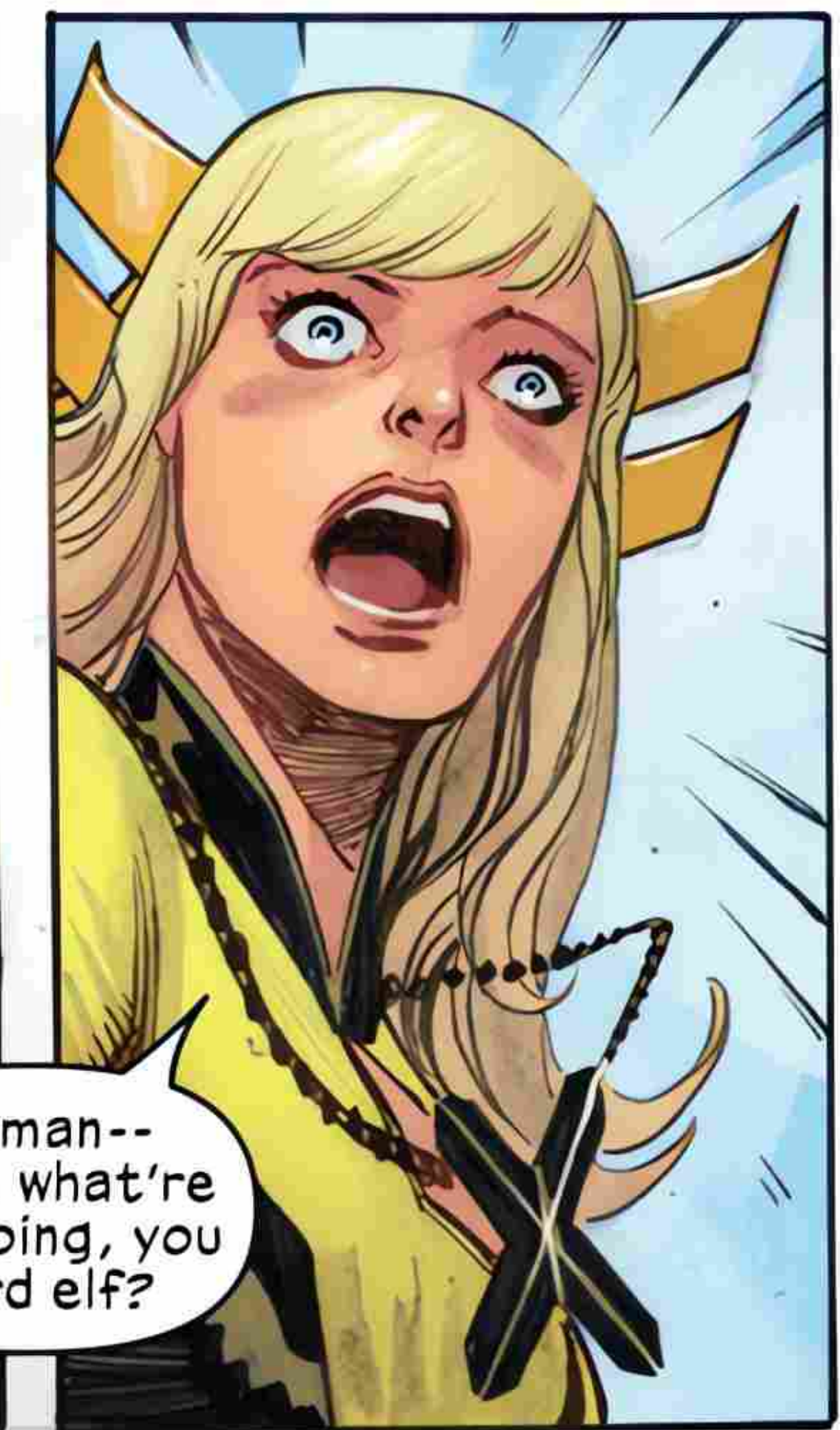
POGG UR-POGG BE I, AND YOU'LL DROP YOUR PURSES IF YOU WISH NOT TO DIE!

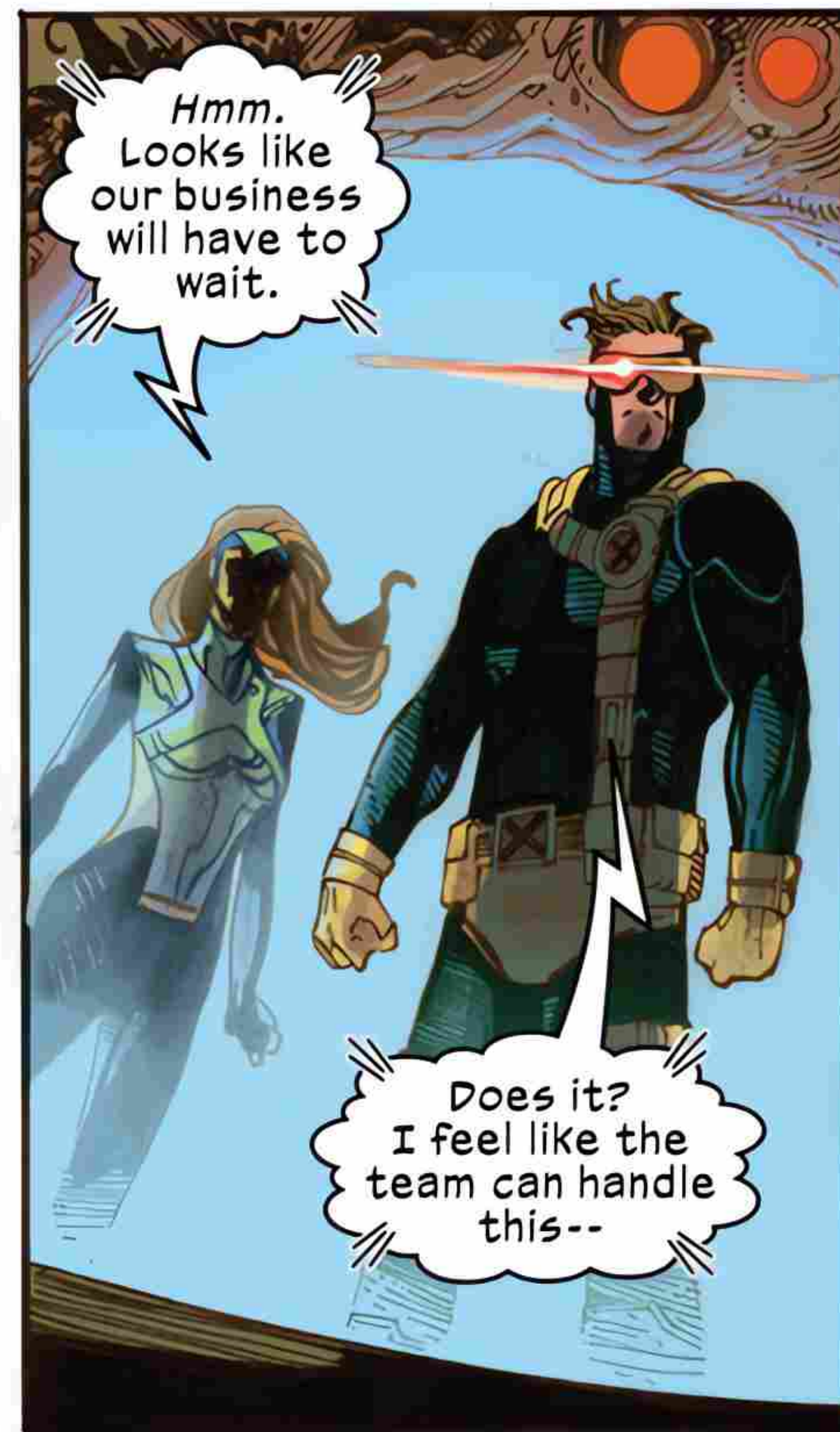
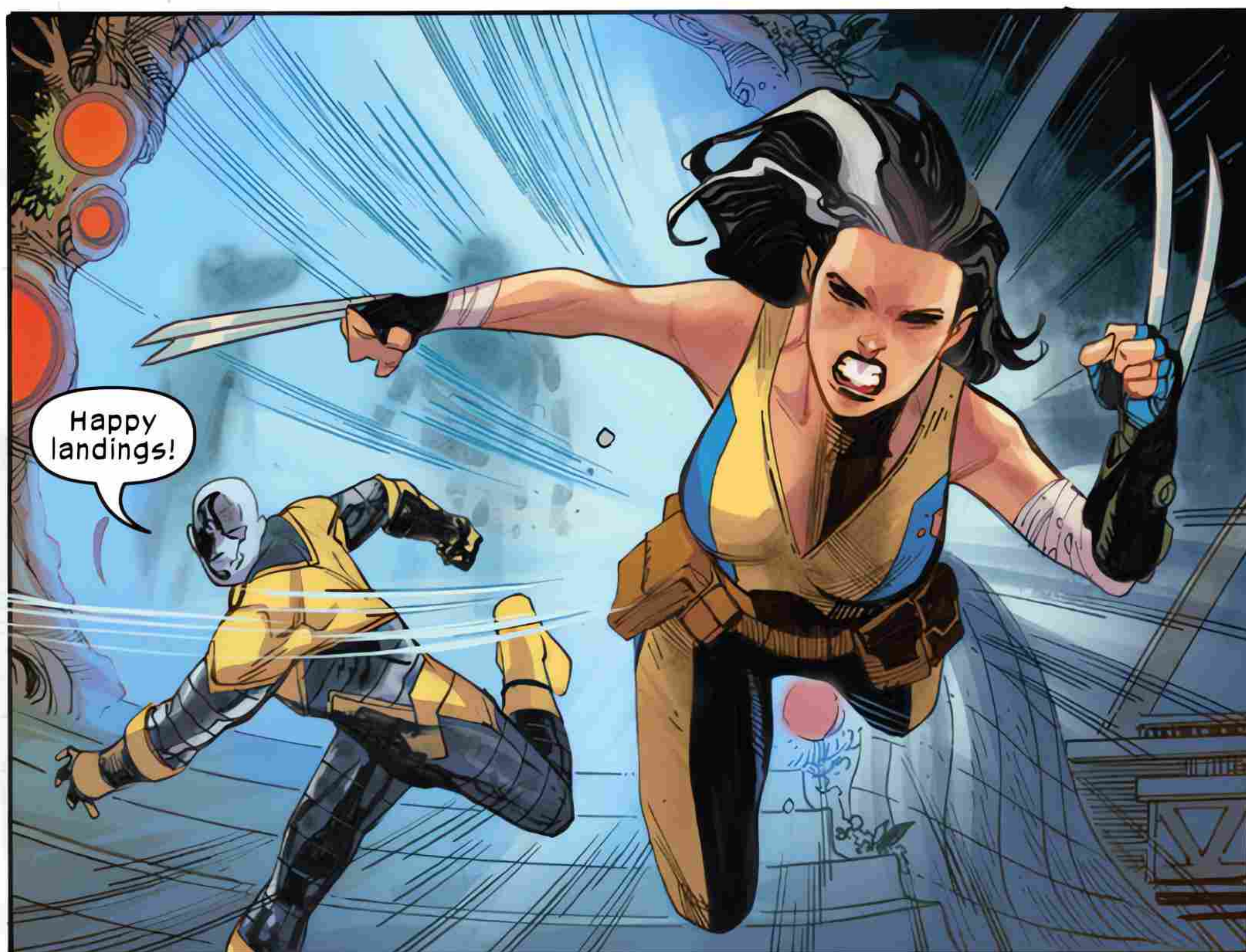
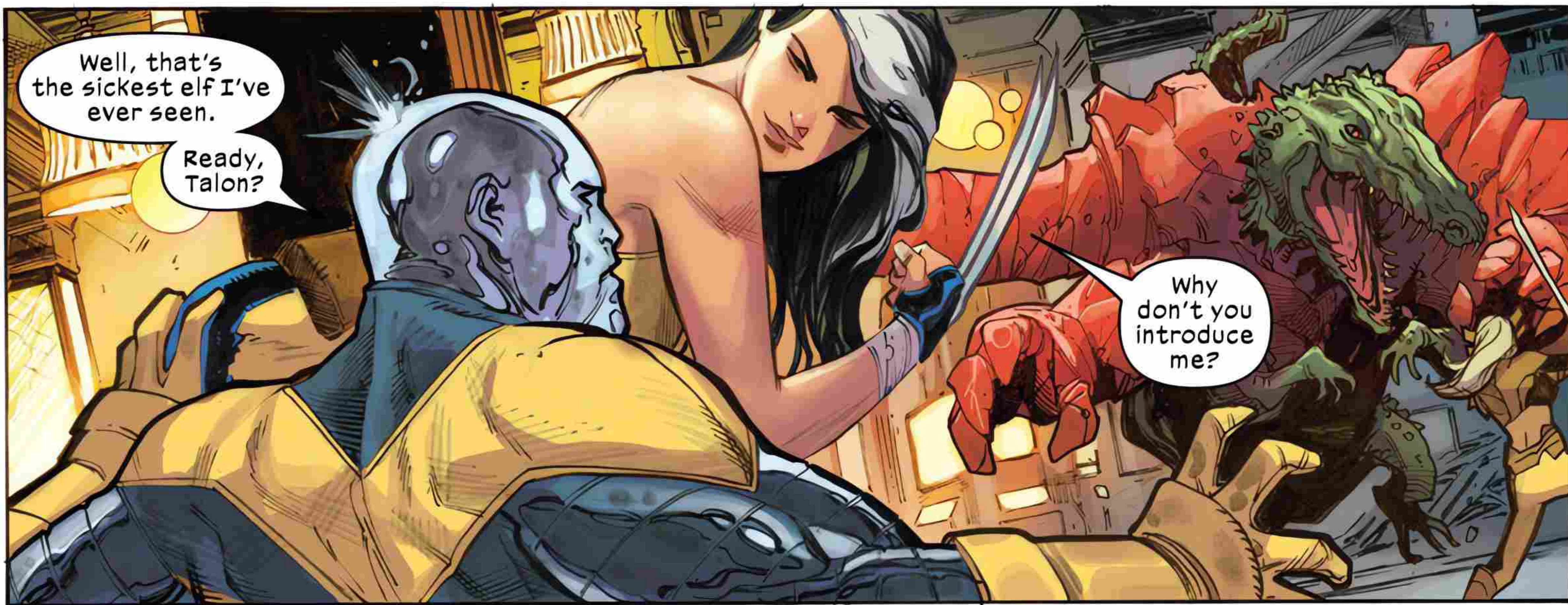


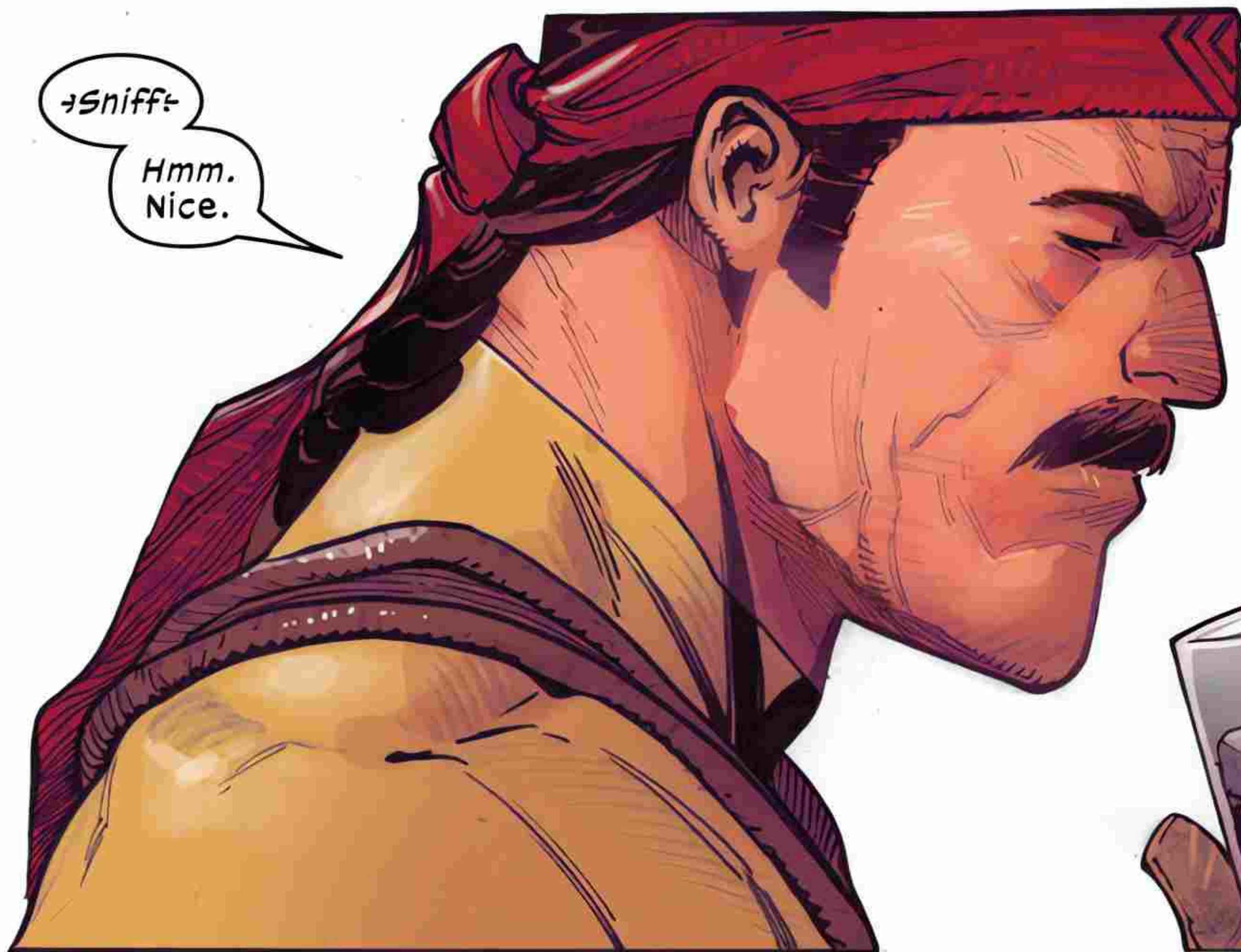
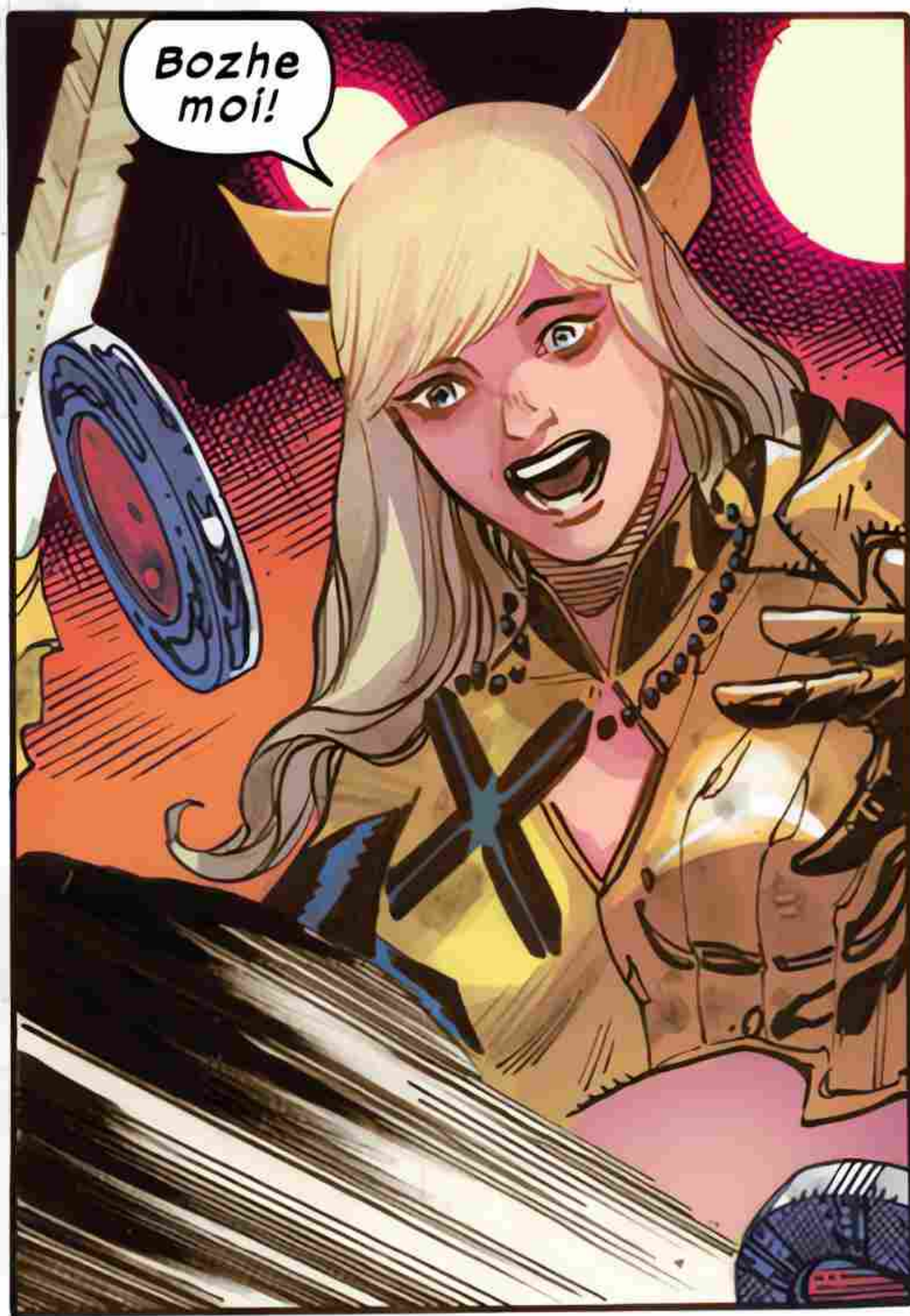
Gameworld sent out a distress call, and it just so happened that the X-Men were already walking over for a little R&R.

Who's the pre-luggage?

Oh man-- Pogg, what're you doing, you weird elf?









To me, you three!

Proud Pogg is of his progeny!



Listen, you little--whatever you are.

I really don't think your kids need the memory of their dad getting his ass beat in a casino seared into their brains.

Little mutant, leave us to our raid-- or find yourself under Pogg's blade.



I'll kick you in the gizzard, lizard! Since we last met I killed a cannibal wizard, and--

Your rhymes are crimes!

Wait-- that smell-- it's almost as though it were a spell!

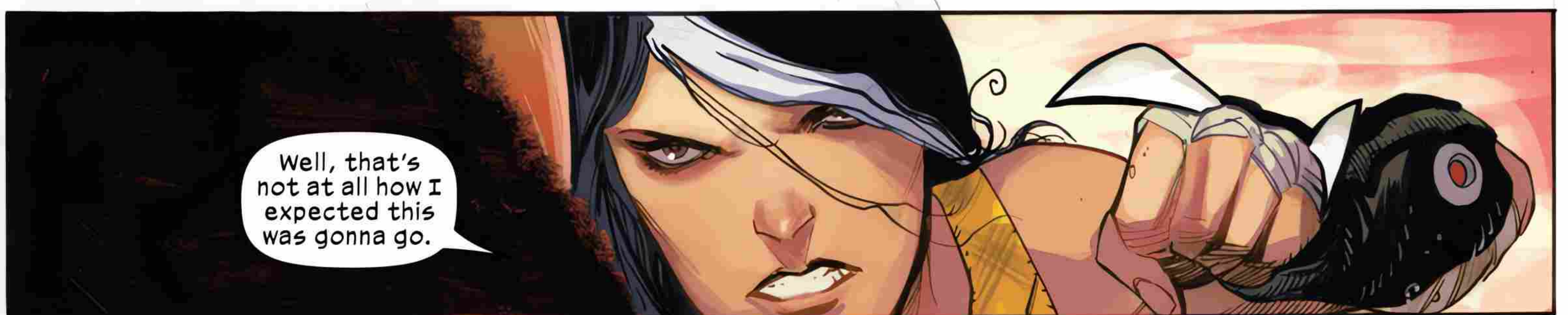


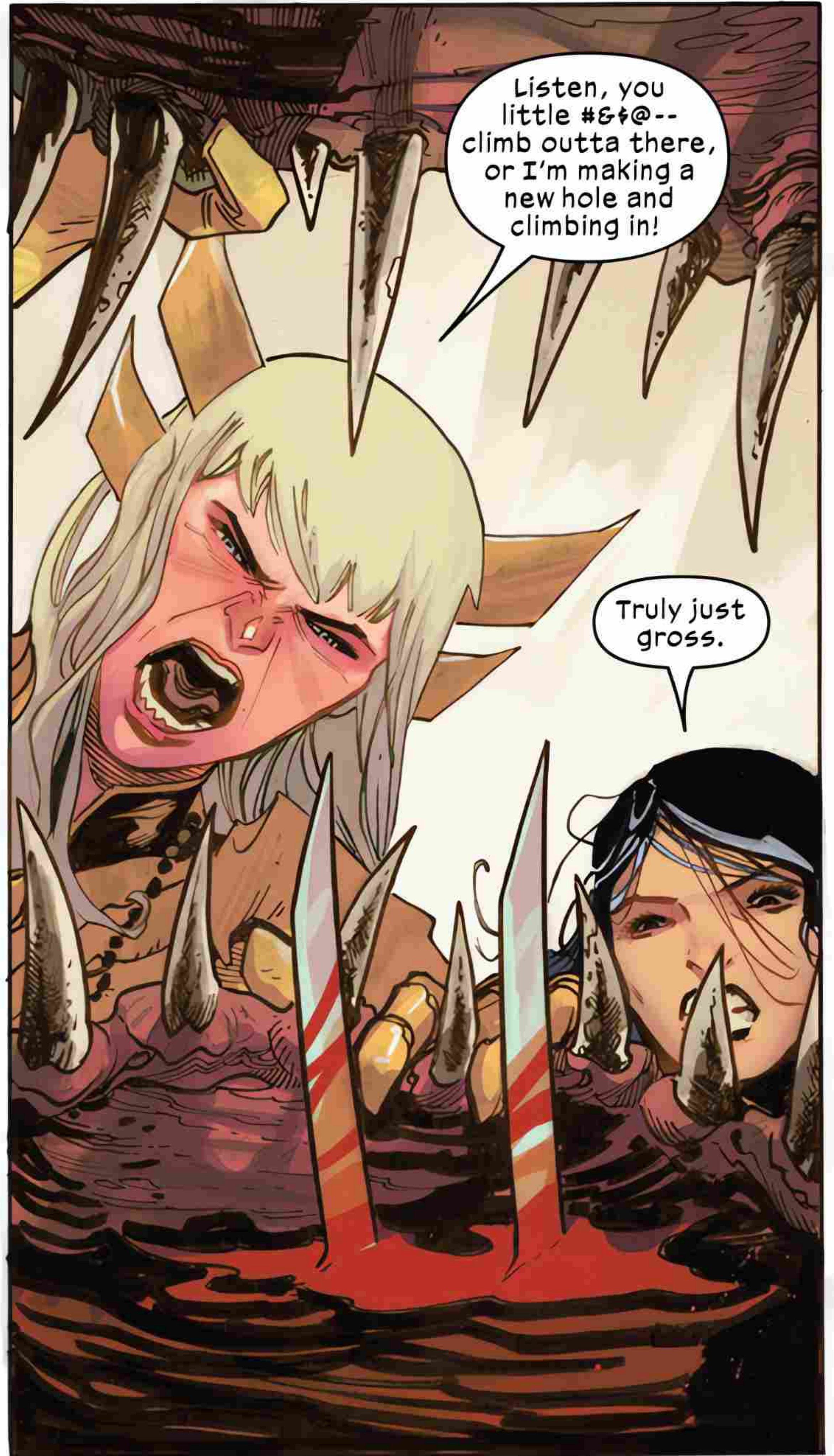
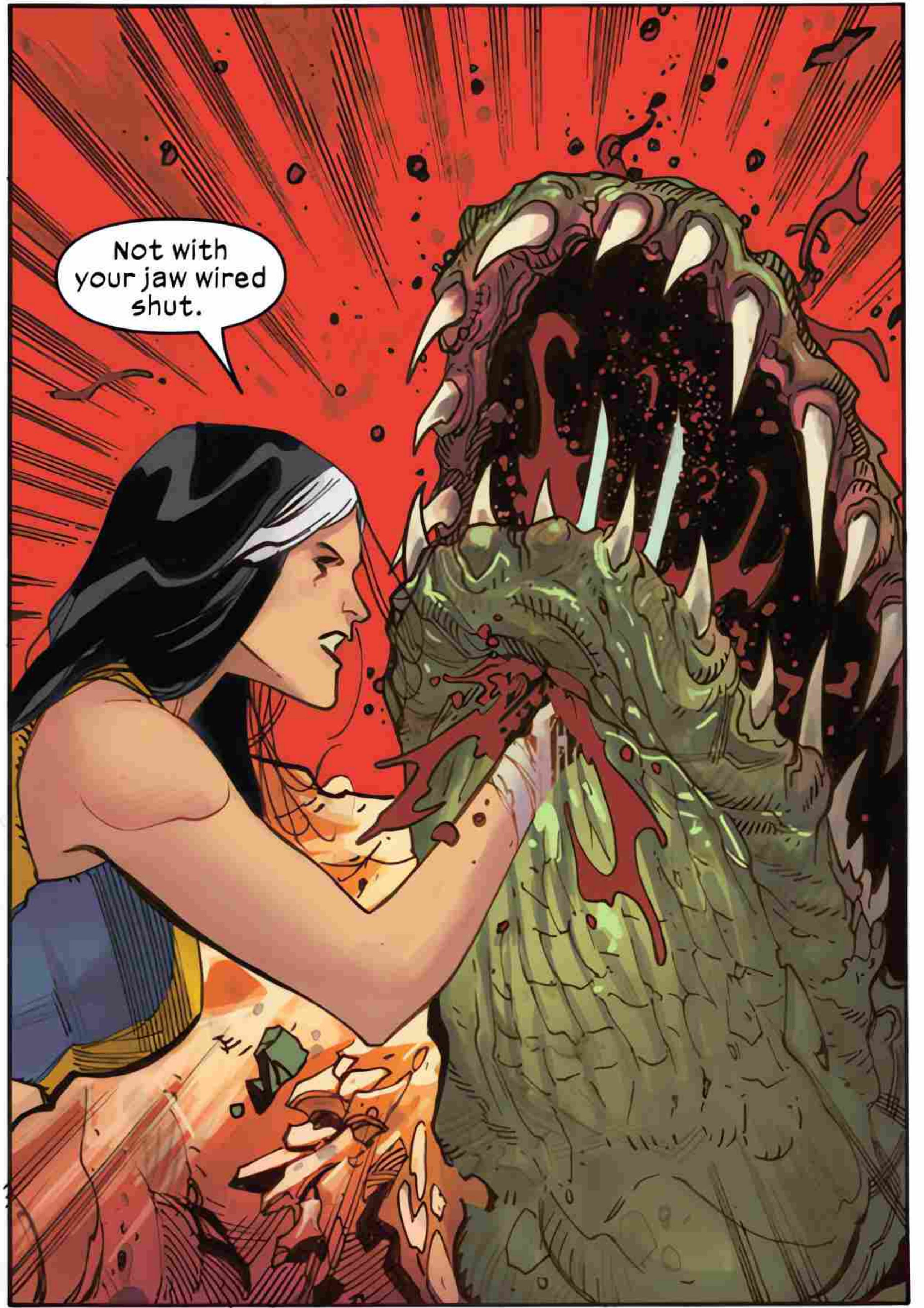
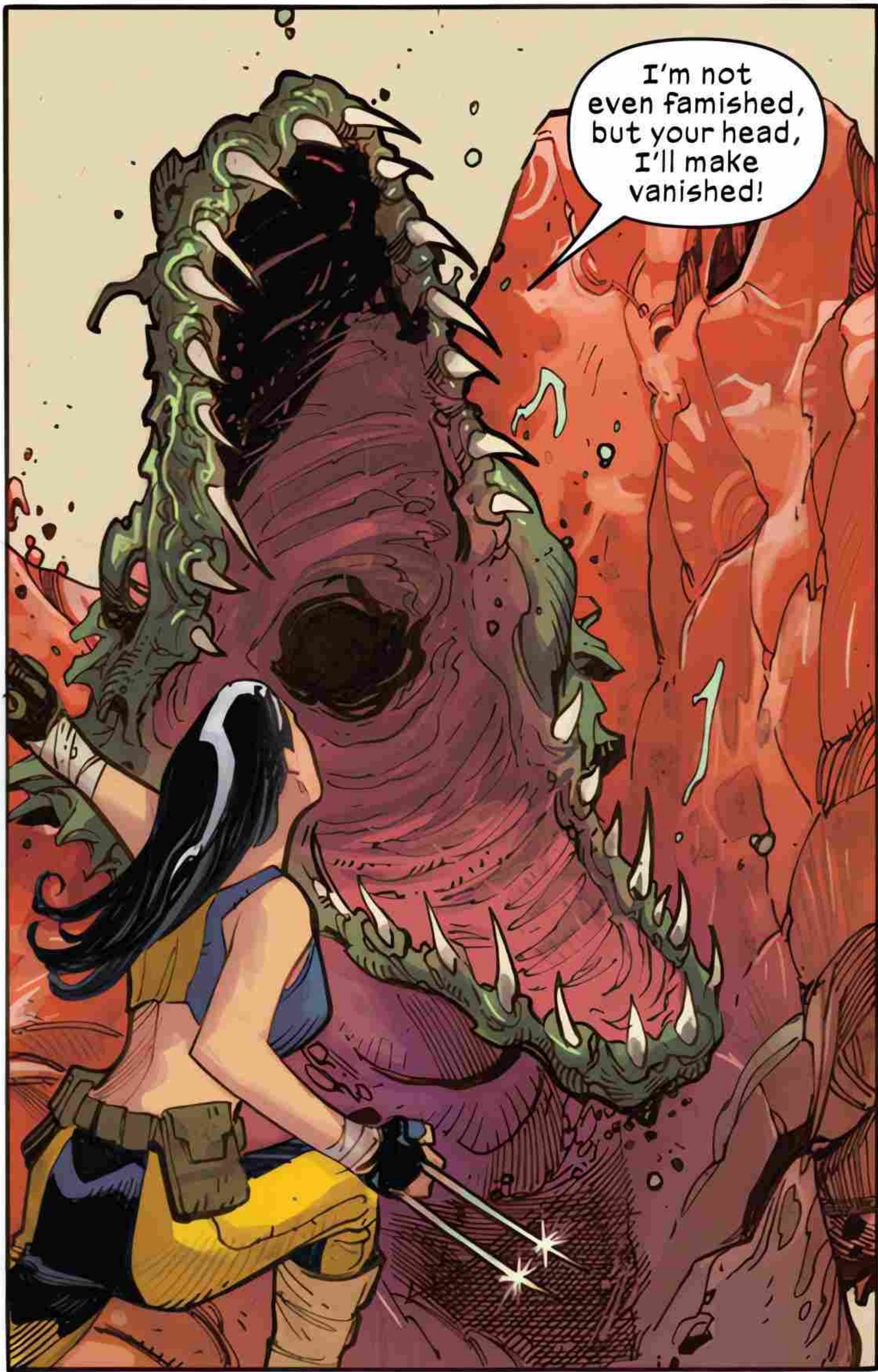
I don't get it--what's little about this guy?



Are we low-blowing innuendos now?

I think there's more going on with this dude than just rhyming and criming!







→SNIFF→
→SNIFF→

Pogg adores
sparkly precious
metals! Your chain
is more radiant
than flower
petals!



The metal I
must acquire--
it's my heart's
desire!

Oh, *this*
little thing? It's a
very rare and powerful
mutant metal called
mysterium.

It was
a gift from
Forge.



I guess I'm
a jeweler
now.

Perhaps I can
arrange a small gift
if you agree to drop
everything you just stole,
and, uh, what else?
Never fight the
X-Men again.

AYE!

And lastly...
someday, and that day may
never come, I will call upon
you to do a service for me.



AYE! A priceless
gift to heal
our rift!

It's agreed,
and now today,
none of you
will bleed!



Thanks for
reeling me
back in.

Waitaminute...
we're stopping a
robbery by agreeing
to be robbed
ourselves, and--

--you know
what? Never mind.
I came here to blow
off steam, and that's
exactly what I'm
gonna do.

I'm
going to the
club.



Now to keep safe the keepsake, and our leave I will take.



Okay, I'm gonna get Count Chonkula here his bag of mysterium-- get him back to his cave.

And give Sunfire my regards.

I almost forgot.



Change of plans. I think we're dipping out of the hang.

I understand. We'll make our own way back later.



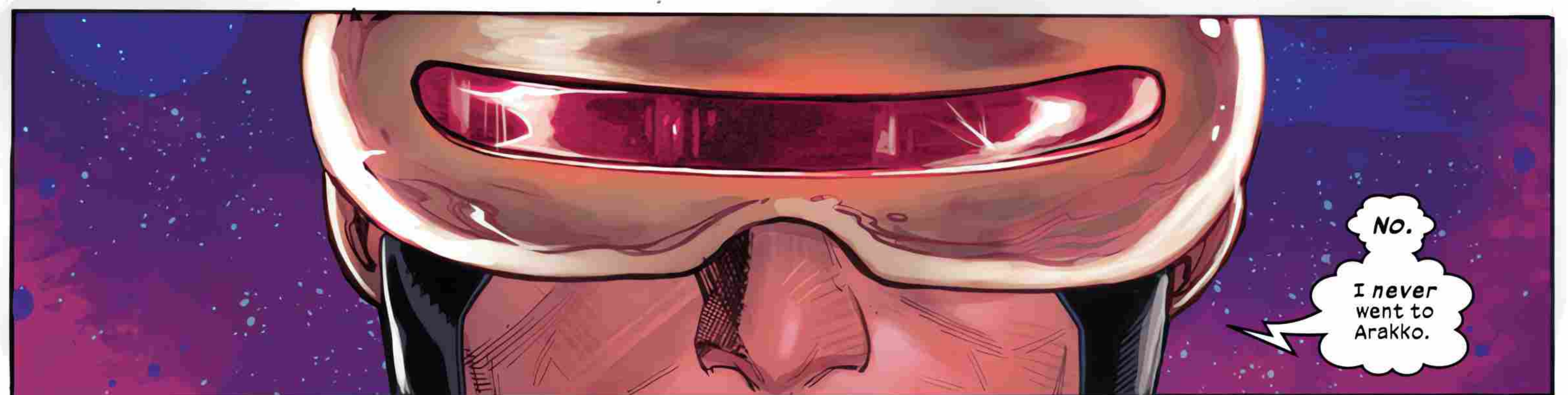
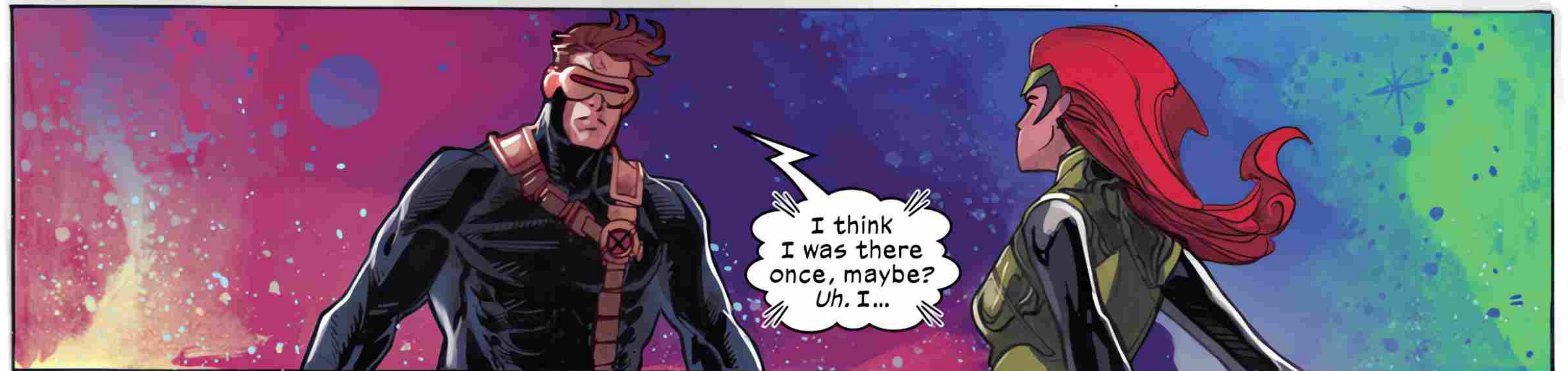
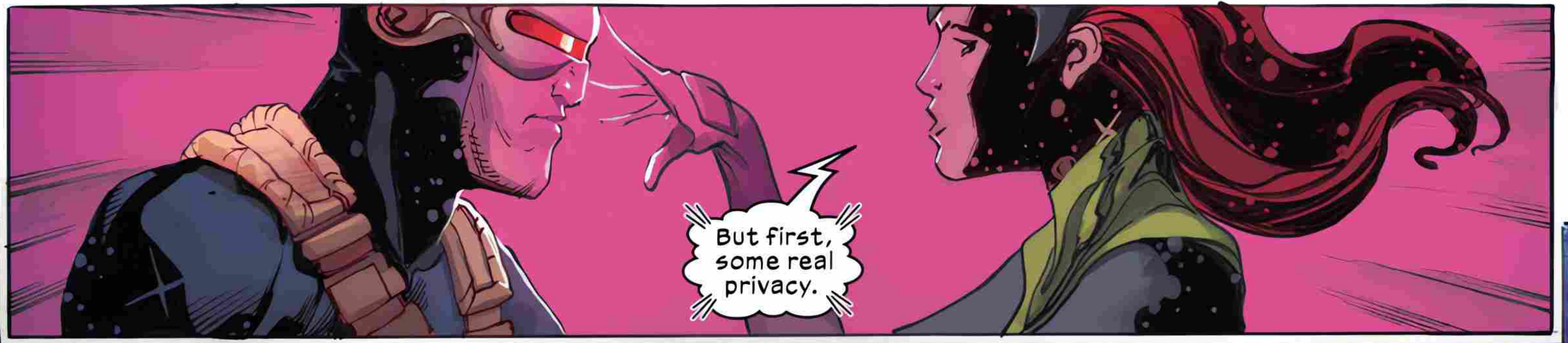
I was hoping we could ease into this.

I think we have been.

I know the Gala is coming, and the team is ready--

Stop.

I want to ask you something, and...it might be petty, but I need to ask it.







Look at how they treat their own kind. The ones who don't fit in. The ones who wear the "wrong" clothes or love the "wrong" mate. Those people's only crime is that they make their oppressors uncomfortable.

I want to be there. For *all* of them.

For mutants and for all mankind.



I do too.

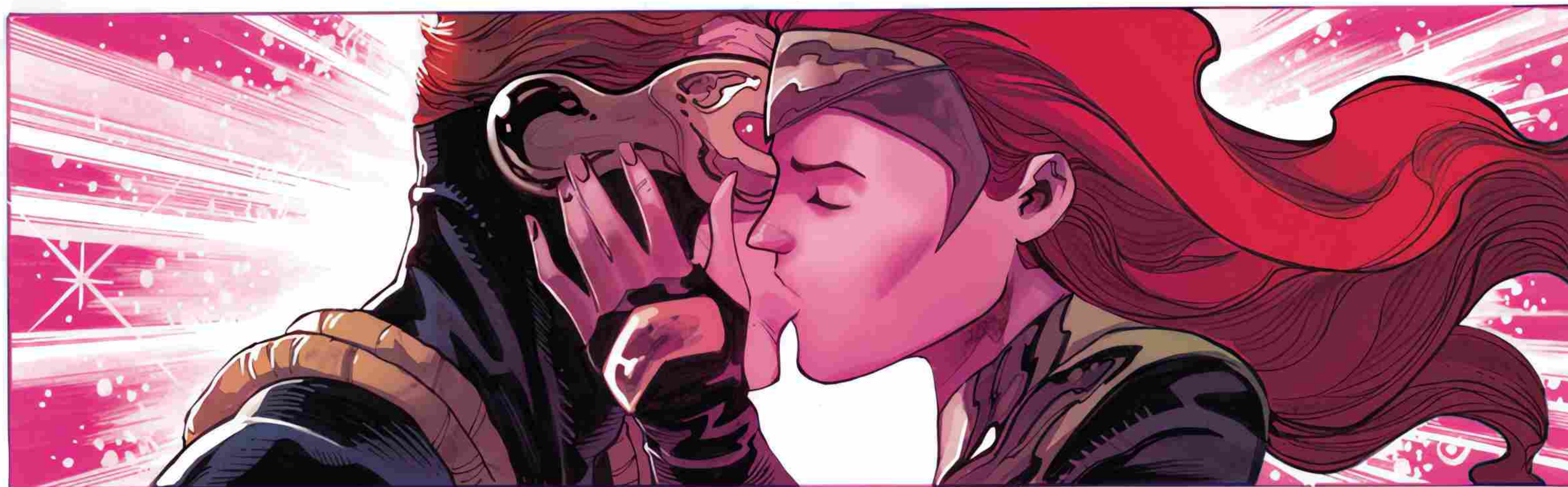
But love is enough to win those hearts. Love *is* enough!

We just can't pretend we're the same as them. It got us nowhere our entire lives.

You are a great captain of Krakoa. It suits you. You're good at it, because you think like them.

Thank you.

It was *not* a compliment.



I have to see about our wounded friend.

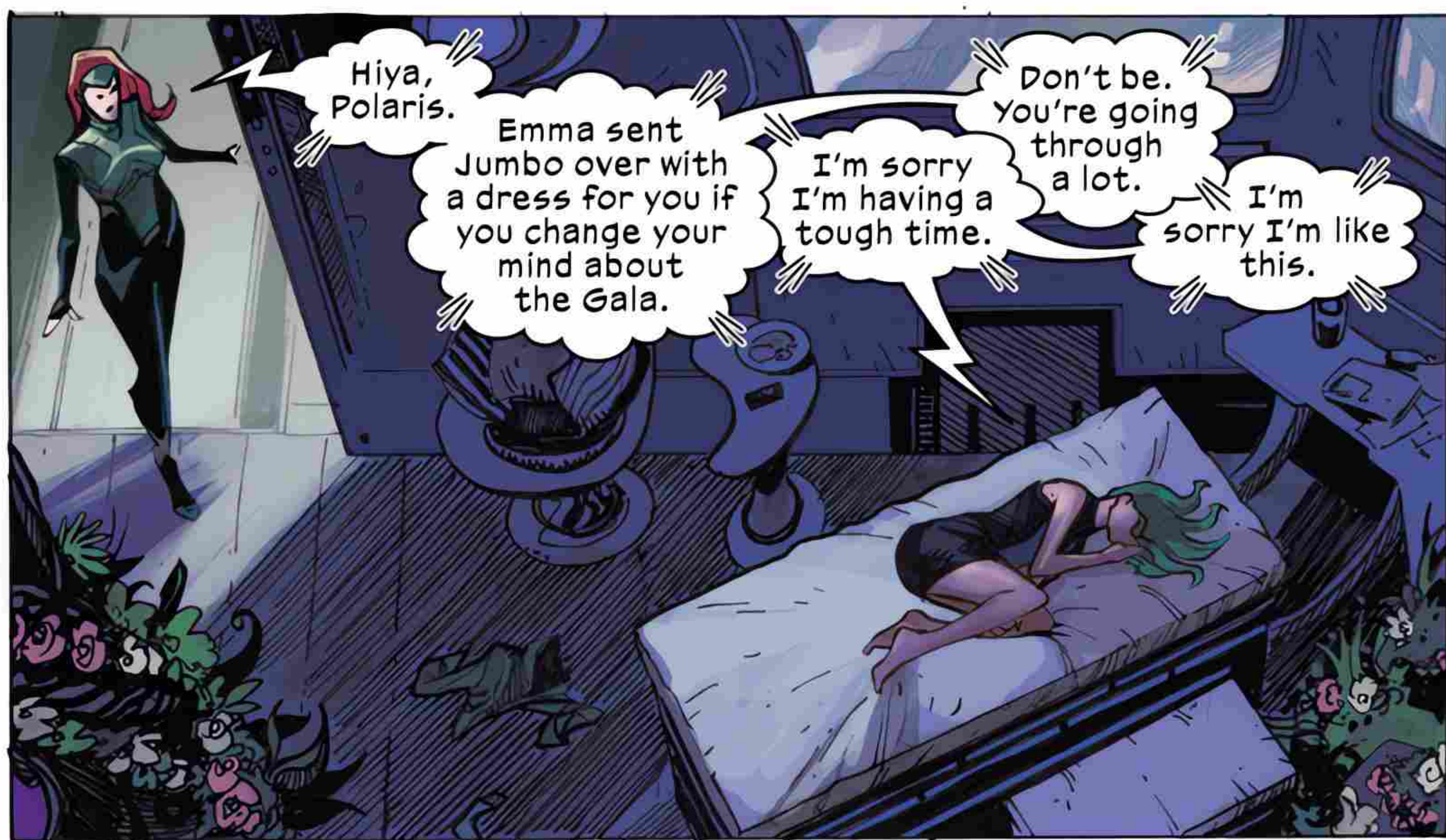
But you should know I'm sticking to my guns about leaving the X-Men.

If you're not on the team after the Gala, and you want to, then...come find me.





Back at the X-Men's home in Manhattan.



Hiya, Polaris.

Emma sent Jumbo over with a dress for you if you change your mind about the Gala.

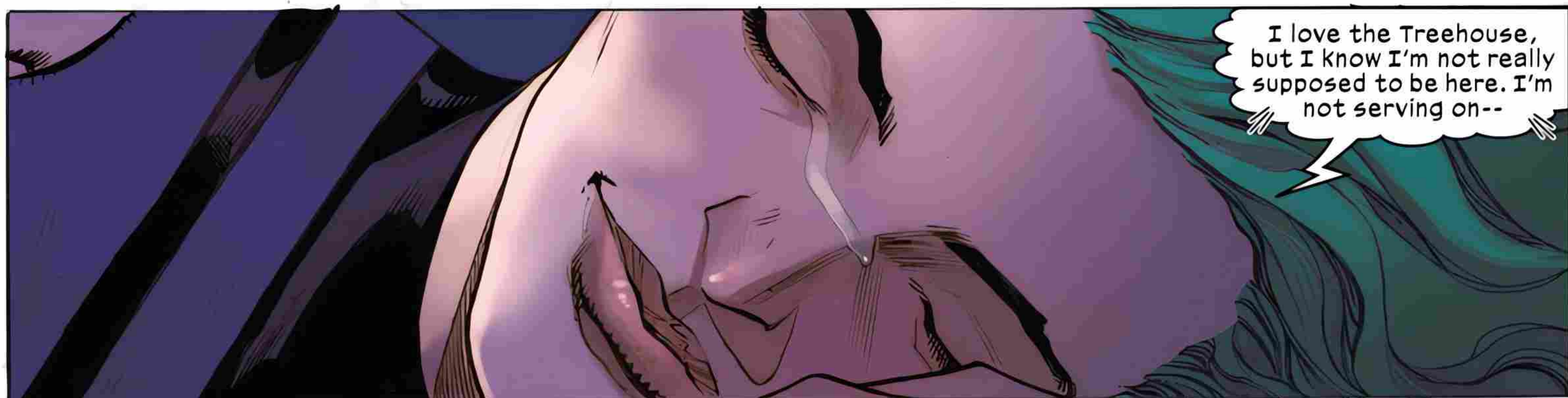
I'm sorry I'm having a tough time.

Don't be. You're going through a lot.

I'm sorry I'm like this.



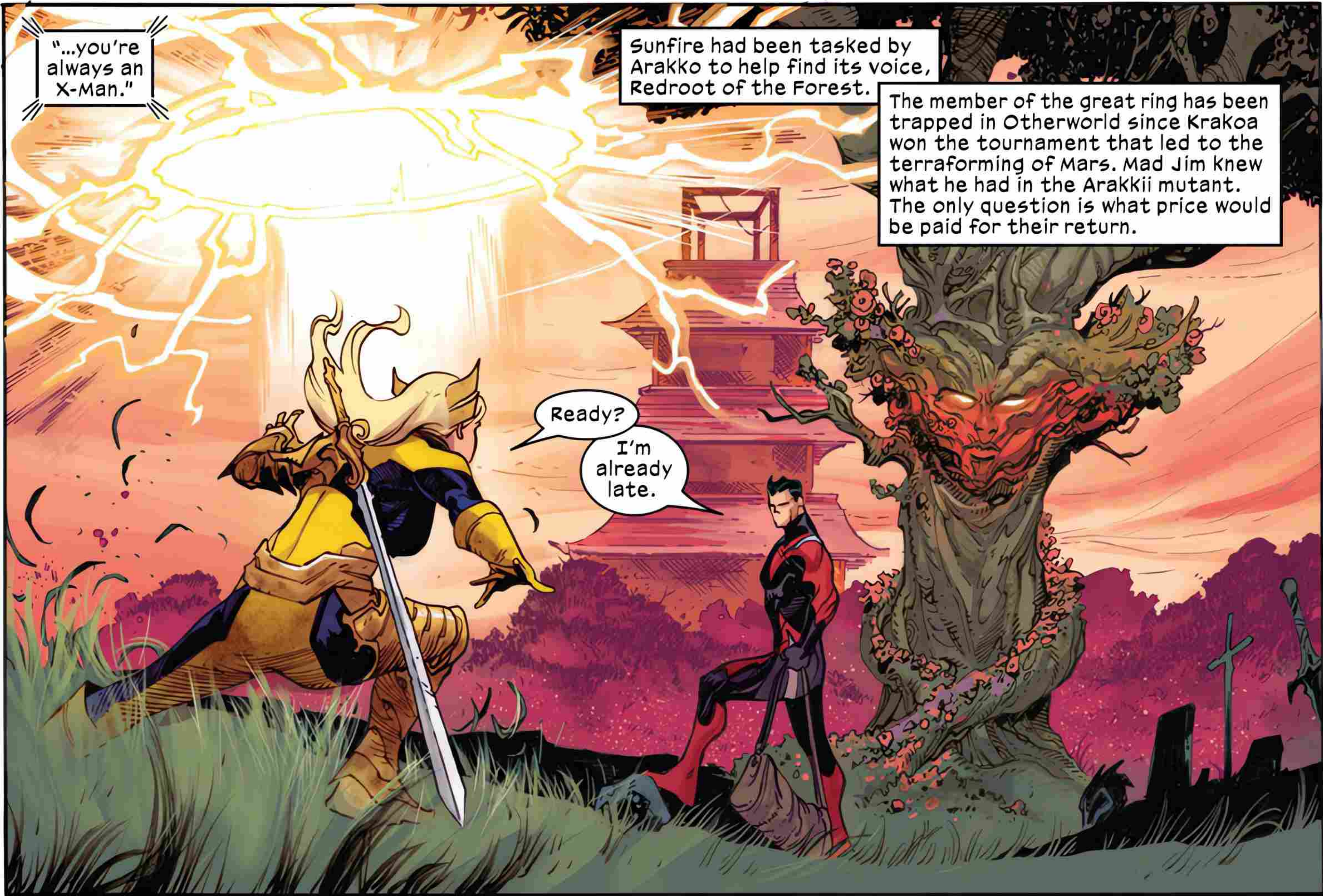
Stop apologizing. You're carrying so much grief, and Magneto is unable to be resurrected. I lost my birth family, and I was in bed for a while too.



I love the Treehouse, but I know I'm not really supposed to be here. I'm not serving on--



Put that thought from your mind. Once you're an X-Man...



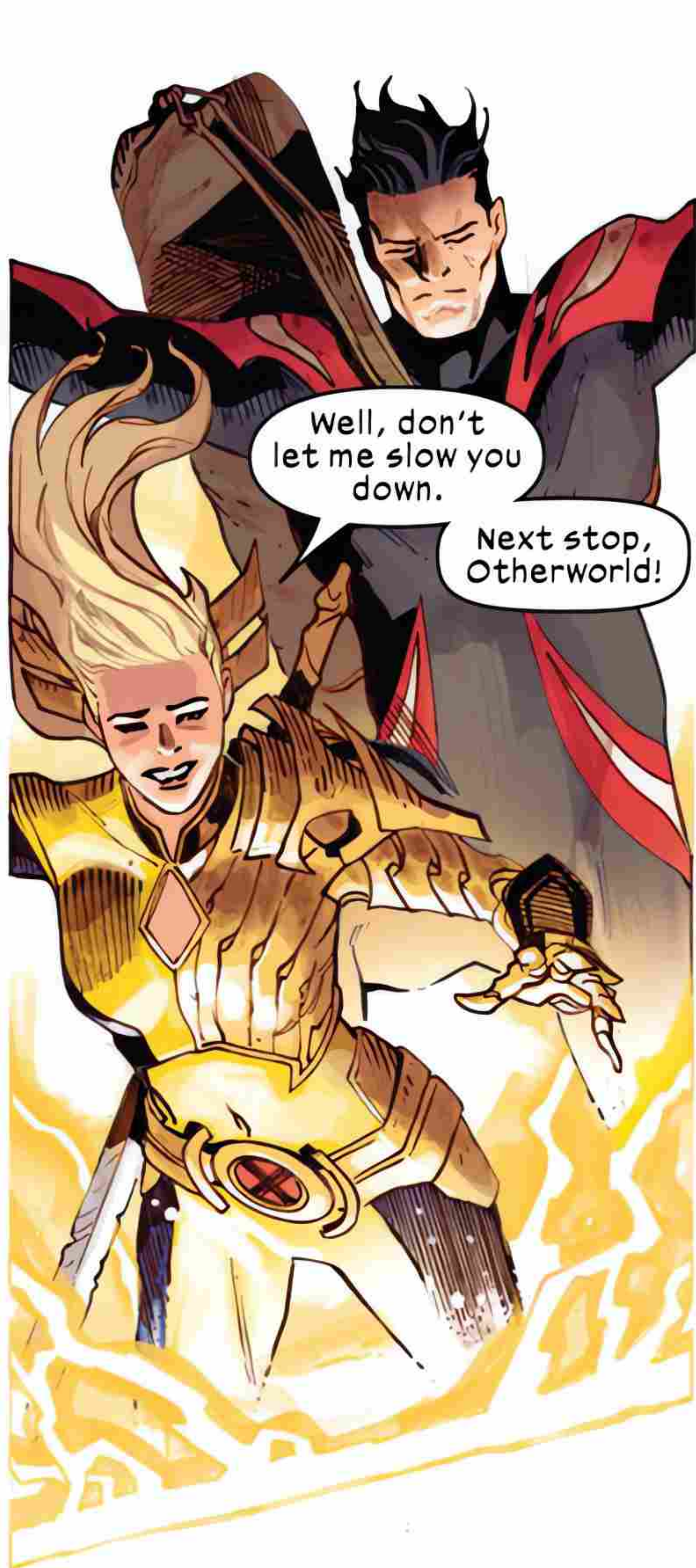
"...you're always an X-Man."

Sunfire had been tasked by Arakko to help find its voice, Redroot of the Forest.

The member of the great ring has been trapped in Otherworld since Krakoa won the tournament that led to the terraforming of Mars. Mad Jim knew what he had in the Arakkii mutant. The only question is what price would be paid for their return.

Ready?

I'm already late.

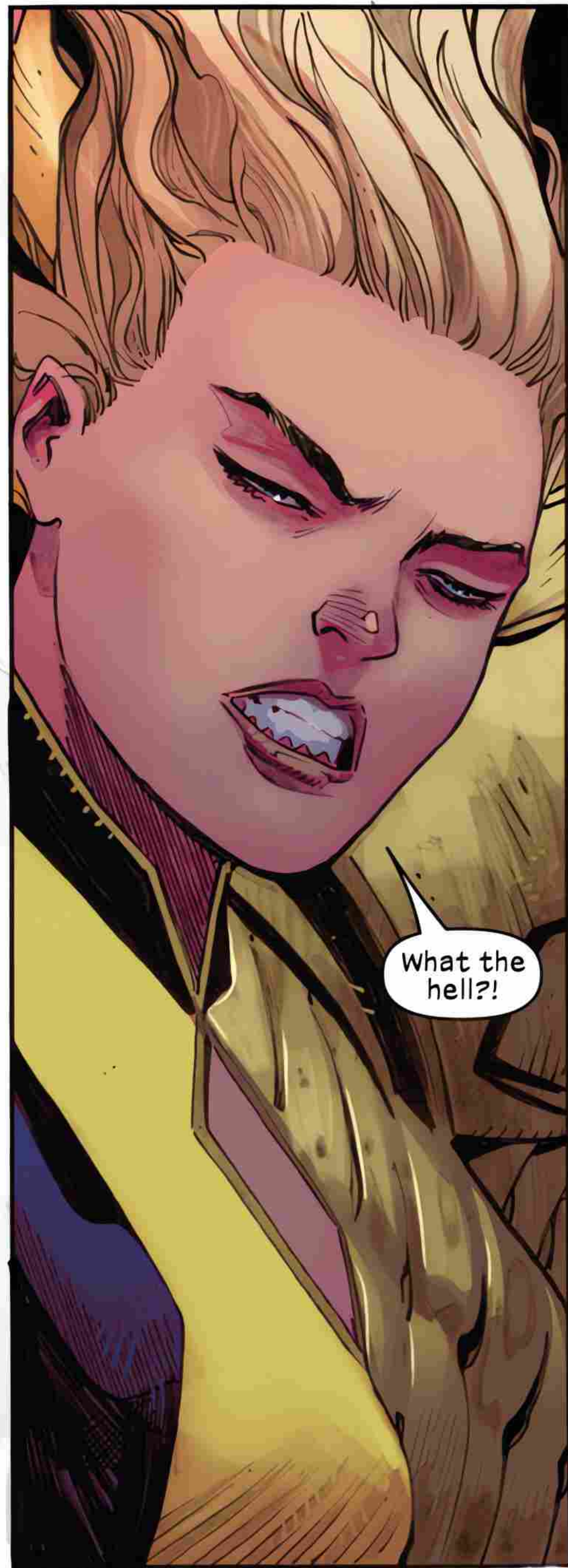


Well, don't let me slow you down.

Next stop, Otherworld!



AAAAH!



What the hell?!



Magik--
are you
okay?!

What just
happened?

Sorry. My
stepping disk
must've encountered
some turbulence caused
by Otherworld's
magic.

I'll watch to see you leave safely, and if I've not found my own
way back in a week, then please meet me right back here.
I am sure I will have freed Redroot by then.



You got
it. See you in
a week.

And don't
worry about me--
my power is fine.
But be careful,
Shiro...

...this place
wasn't fun and was a real
hell during our tournament. And
time works differently. Sometimes.



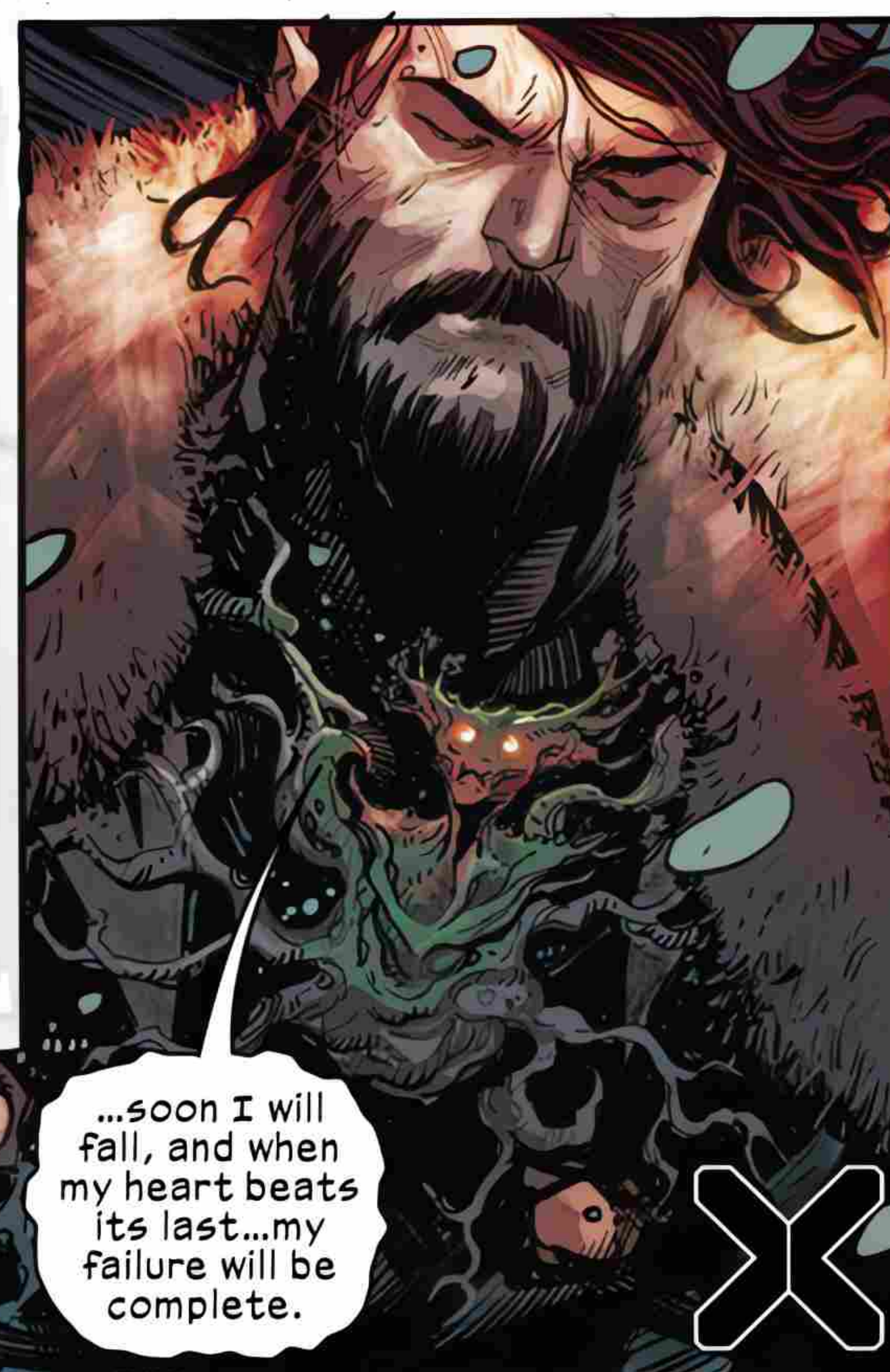
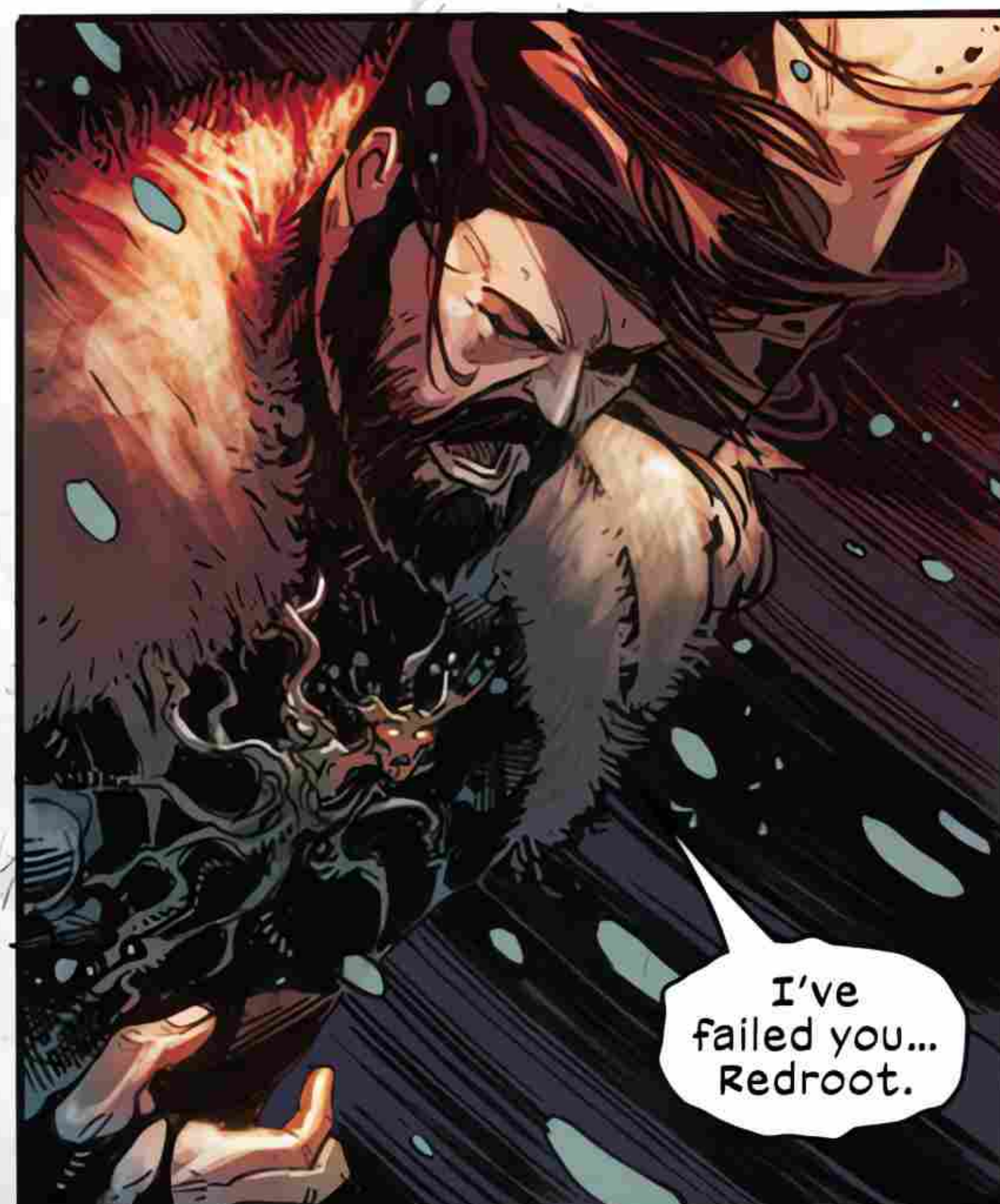
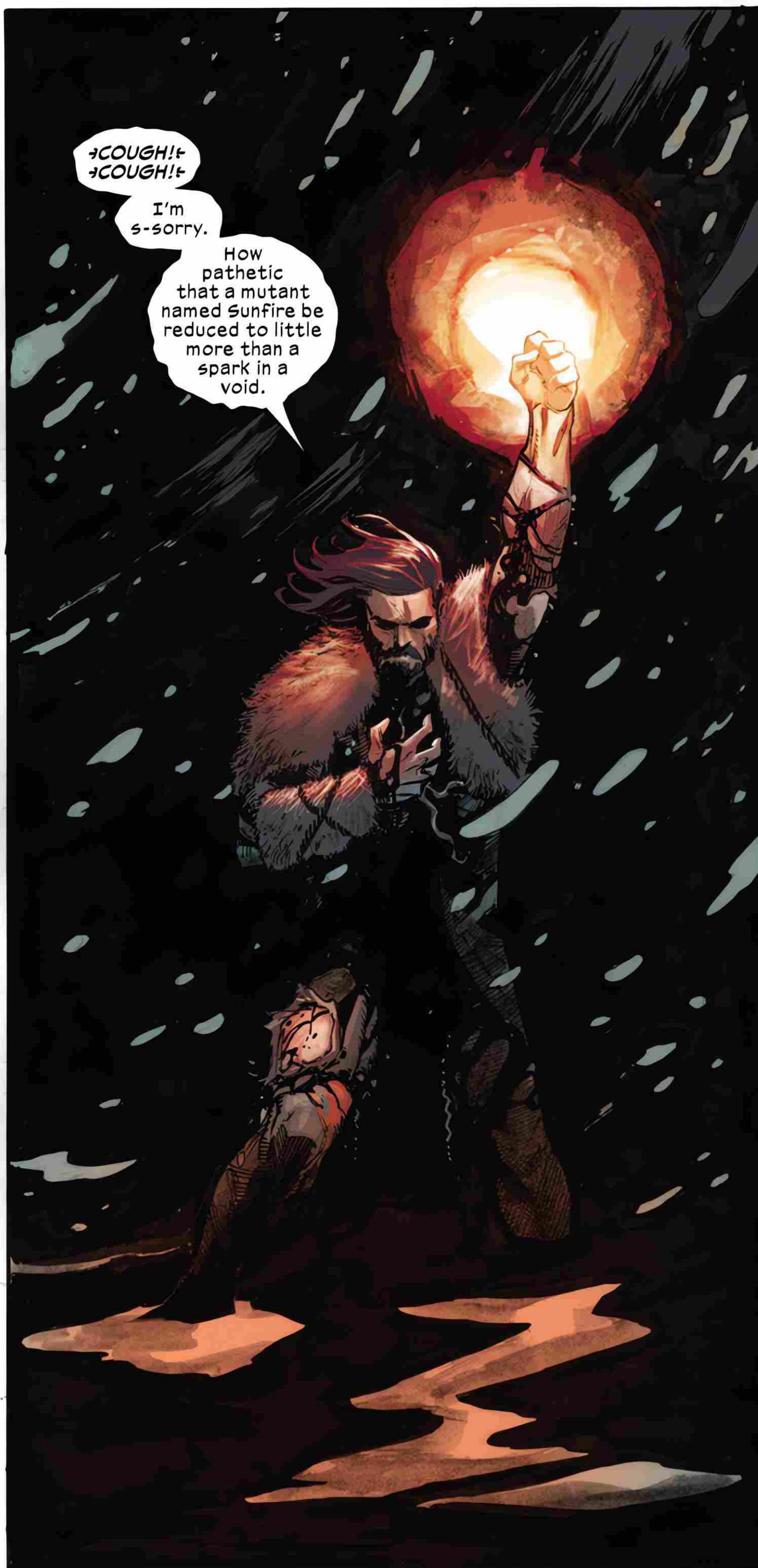
I don't
know all the
rules-- maybe nobody
does. That's why
this place is so
dangerous.

Thank you,
Magik. I've
been preparing
for this for a
long time...

...I should
be in and
out.



X MONTHS LATER



Next: Sunfire vs. Otherworld in X-MEN UNLIMITED!

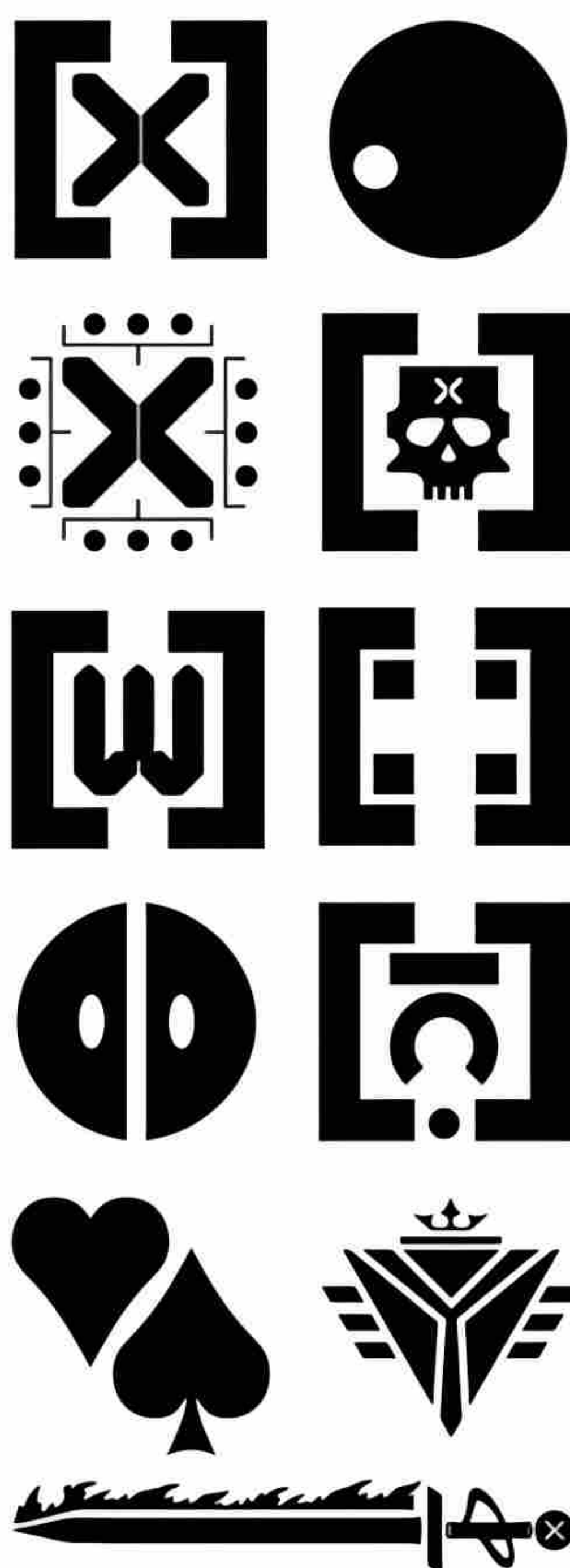
Plus...it's the last dance for mutantdom
in X-MEN: HELLFIRE GALA 2023!

Then in August, X-MEN #25--The Red Queen Is Dead,
Long Live the Queen!


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[x-men_[0.24]
[x-men_[0.24]
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[x-men_[0.24]
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The logo features the word "ZEX" in a large, bold, black, sans-serif font. To the left of the letters is a vertical column of symbols: a circle with a dot inside, three vertical bars of increasing height, and a square with a dot inside. The entire logo is set against a white background.



“FROM THE SHADOWS!”

25

ISSUE:

X-23: Deadly Regenesiis #5

➤ **X-Men #24**

X-Men: Before the Fall -
Sinister Four #1

Immortal X-Men #13

Rogue & Gambit #5

X-Force #42

New Mutants Lethal Legion #5

Wolverine #35

X-Men Red #13

Deadpool #9

X-Men: Hellfire Gala 2023 #1

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[kra_[0.0]...]
[koa_[0.0]...]
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[00_x-men__.24]